



## Bold Mission to last without him, says Allen, content in pastorate

by Bill Webb, Staff Writer

SBC president Jimmy Allen, probably the most vocal supporter of the convention's Bold Mission Thrust, says its success is not tied "to a single person and certainly not to me."

Allen's response came in an interview last week in Louisville. He was in town to speak at the Long Run Association annual meeting at Harmony Baptist Church.

"The agency leaders and lay leadership of the convention created Bold Mission Thrust before I became the elected leader of the convention" Allen explained. "I certainly believe in the idea and supported it as a voting messenger.

"But I was not a part of its inception, therefore I do not think I am essential to its completion. I don't feel it is tied to me so much as this presidency is tied to it.

"It seems to me that I am doing what any person who would be president of the Southern Baptist Convention at this moment would be seeking to do."

Could Allen, whose term as president expires next June, visualize himself in a position of SBC agency leadership closely related to Bold Mission Thrust in the future?

"My feeling is that the basic leader in the Southern Baptist way of doing things lies in two or three different levels of leadership.

"The leadership of agency leaders in pivotal and the leadership of idea-thought leaders, which is the editors, is pivotal.

"But the leadership of pace-setting pastors and churches is probably more crucial than any other level," said Allen, a San Antonio, Tex. pastor.

"But I don't see that you necessarily have to be in any one of those roles to be involved in it."

### Content in the pastorate

Allen said the local church is where ideas come into being and are tried and tested in Southern Baptist life.

"I see the local church pastor being a pivotal person in that process," he affirmed. "I'm perfectly content to do that. That's my first love."

Allen said he is away from San Antonio an average of three days a week in his role as SBC president but he remains heavily involved in his pastorate.

"I've been in the pulpit consistently. I usually am on Sundays and Wednesday nights.

"The Lord has provided an absolutely beautiful thing in the commitment of the Mission Service Corps pilot who is with me with his airplane. It has really been a life-saving thing.

"I'll be back (in San Antonio) for prayer meeting tonight. And back in time to have some staff conferences, counseling and visitation before tonight.

"It gets very fatiguing but the thing that pains me more than anything else is that I love the pastoral experience.

"There are some people (in my congregation) who are fragile that I'm supporting. And my having to talk to them long distance to pastor them instead of being there is tough.

"There is always some slippage in the life of a church when you're involved this intensely."

### No repeat sermons

Isn't it difficult to be prepared to speak wherever you go and keep up with pastoral demands as well?

"I made a commitment when I first began (nearly a year and a half ago) that I would not repeat sermons. I do a minimal amount of that and it does indeed tax you doing research and this sort of thing.

"I have people who voluntarily help me with the research." Several are in his church, he said, while others are in Washington, D. C. and Austin, Tex.

"But the ideas and sermons—I don't have anyone ghost-writing for me—I do those myself and that



takes time. There again, the airplane helps because it's got a desk and dictaphone and in my travel I'm able to study."

Despite the hectic schedule Allen believes his stint in the denominational presidency has been an adventure—just like the rest of his ministry.

"Actually, my lifestyle hasn't changed much. I've always had a sense of the priority of the local church but in the sense of 'the world is my parish' concept.

"I have been privileged to have a very adventurous experience in life at the point of being in moments when we were dealing with very exciting challenges. This has been another dimension of that.

### Surprised by SBC presidency

"Back in the '60's when I decided that the civil rights movement was an absolute essential for our world mission enterprise and began working with it and accepted the Christian Life Commission leadership (in Texas), it was a very unpopular time.

"I got a lot of heat on that and at that time died to the idea of ever getting elected to anything. All this time I have been involved in this kind of enterprise and I'm surprised by the SBC presidency.

"But I do enjoy being out, moving among the folks and trying to sell the ideas that I believe the Lord has given us."

Allen believes Bold Mission Thrust is an idea that will not die but he expresses a certain urgency in fulfilling the task.

"There is too deep a level of commitment on the part of both the leadership and the laity, and there is too much energy that the people in the pews are feeling toward missions and toward evangelism for us to not continue on the track.

"I don't think we're going to abandon the boat. That has been our goal all the time. We have never been a non-missionary or a non-evangelistic people.

"We are in transition because it takes time to convince the promotional program leaders at all levels that this is a priority that now needs to be dealt with.

"And when they get convinced it still takes time to gear up programs because they are already committed to excellent programs. But now we have a priority coming in ahead of that.

### Money, manpower, enthusiasm available

"I think money is available and manpower is avail-

able. And enthusiasm, especially in the laity, is available.

"The atmosphere and climate has changed enough that we're having more missionaries than ever before; we are making heavier commitments to missions; and there is more participation by the laity in mission projects than ever before.

"All these things are true and under ordinary circumstances we could have applause from all the grandstands. But the fact is that they are true against a backdrop of urgency and mission that we have not encountered before.

Allen said plans are on for a rally in the Wednesday night session of the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston next June 13 to bring a bold emphasis on SBC missions.

The rally will be a commissioning service for what Allen prays will be 1000 persons who will have committed themselves to at least one year of mission service during the previous year.

"We're going to be calling people to that kind of commitment in the invitation that is given in the rallies," he explained. People will be called to make commitments to volunteer and career missions; to sponsorship of volunteers; and to increased giving to the Cooperative Program.

In addition to the conventiongoers in the Astrodome in Houston, the rally will be accessible to Baptists in 10 other cities across the nation via an RCA satellite.

At media centers in those cities simultaneous rallies will be held in conjunction with the satellite broadcasts. Plus, some 800 cable television systems will have the option of airing the rally in other communities.

Allen visualizes upwards of a quarter of a million Southern Baptists participating in the rallies.

"I think that the concept of the bigness of the fellowship and the bigness of this task has not yet dawned on a great number of us as Southern Baptists," Allen believes.

"It seems to me that one of the things we have needed in Bold Mission Thrust is some dramatic symbol that says to us, to ourselves, that we are in a new velocity of mission work."

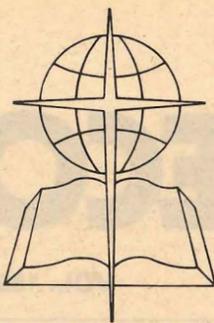
Allen is still as excited as ever about urging his fellow Southern Baptists to bold missions wherever he travels.

Yet with most of his presidency behind him, he says with a wide grin, "I would be very pleased to hand the opportunity to the next man."

Earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. —Jude 3

WESTERN RECORDER

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C. R. Daley

## Daley Observations

### Judge Meigs' decision is questionable

Ordinarily any court decision upholding religious freedom should be applauded but the recent decision of Franklin Circuit Court Judge Henry Meigs exempting church related elementary and high schools from minimum standards required for public schools is hardly praiseworthy. If the decision is a victory for religious freedom, it is a severe blow against quality education.

The decision came in a lawsuit instituted by five independent churches which operate schools and by the Kentucky Association of Christian Schools Inc. The state department of education had refused to grant accreditation to these schools because they failed to meet minimum requirements such as using certified teachers and approved textbooks. On the basis of the compulsory school attendance law the state contended that children attending non-accredited schools were truants and their parents were subject to prosecution.

Did Judge Meigs go too far in deciding for these schools? Maybe so. At least he went further than other court decisions which have held that the state's right to regulate education does not deny religious freedom.

If the state was trying to force parents to send their children to public schools, it would be a different matter. The right of parents to choose private and religious schools over public schools for the training of their children was not in question in the case. This right has been affirmed many times and should ever be recognized. But the right to choose schools that are clearly inferior academically is another matter.

The state has never discriminated against private and church schools. All which have met the minimum standards required for public schools have been accredited with no limit on religious content taught in these schools. But the state would be amiss in granting accreditation to clearly inferior schools.

The champions of these schools deny they are inferior academically. They insist that language, mathematics, economics and even science can be taught from the Bible. Judge Meigs seems to agree with them.

The quality of education offered in these schools can be judged only after there has been time enough to see how their graduates fare in college and in competition with students trained in accredited schools. An examination of some of their curriculum materials, however, would indicate a lower quality of instruction.

Another possible sad consequence of the judge's decision is the springing up of a multitude of church and private schools in the name of religious freedom but in actuality only glorified Bible schools serving as escapes from busing, desegregation, no prayer and Bible

reading and other unpopular practices in public schools.

The decision of Judge Meigs should be and apparently will be appealed. More than one legal mind should decide such an important matter. Hopefully the ultimate decision in this matter will guarantee both religious freedom and quality education for parents and children choosing church related schools.

### A gift that warms the heart

For those with eyes to see and hearts to feel every day brings inspiring experiences but occasionally comes an event which transcends others and leaves an indelible impression. Ordinarily these experiences are unplanned and unexpected as the one which happened to me on a recent Sunday evening.

The occasion was a visit to Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville to supply the pulpit for pastor Bill Sullivan. In that congregation is a dear little lady who has been an inspiration in my life for many years. She and her husband were members of the Harrodsburg Baptist Church when I was the Harrodsburg pastor more than 20 years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Reynolds were not blessed with much of this world's goods but were rich in spiritual things. They seemed not to know how to criticize but had only good words for the Lord, his church, the pastor and every fellow member. Whatever the difficulties were and no matter how hard the road became, I knew there was always one couple lifting me and the church in prayer every day.

With age and declining health the Reynolds moved to Louisville to be near their daughter. They lived happily in a humble home and made their neighbors happy by sharing their lives along with the vegetables and flowers they produced from a small yard and garden.

They joined the Farmdale congregation and soon were singing the praises of fellow members and declaring they had the best pastor in the world. After some years Mr. Reynolds passed away but Mrs. Reynolds continued to find a way to get to Sunday school and church every Sunday. Her pastor moved on but the next one soon became to her the best one in the world. Long past the age when most people try to attend church and though crippled with arthritis, she seldom lets sickness, adverse weather or other circumstances keep her from Sunday school and church.

And so it was not surprising she was in her

regular place on the Sunday I visited Farmdale. For the evening service my wife and I had the joy of taking her and bringing her home. As we neared her home on the way back from the evening service she opened her purse and took out a bill in the dark and put it in my hand saying she wanted to help Western Recorder. She had read of the financial crunch of state papers these days.

My first inclination was to refuse to take her gift but then I realized not to accept it would be to deny her a blessing. I put the bill in a pocket by itself because it was special. When I emptied my pockets later I saw it was a \$10 bill.

So far I have not been able to send the \$10 through our regular channels. It's too holy to be treated ordinarily. I'm trying to find some way to preserve it as a symbol of the sacrificial generosity of Mrs. Reynolds and many other humble souls like her whose trust and confidence every denominational worker should treasure and guard carefully and reverently.

I sign the checks for every Western Recorder expenditure and whenever I authorize any spending I hope I can have this \$10 bill in front of me to remind me of the sanctity of all denominational funds.

## Baptist Forum

### Thanks from Northern Plains

Please let me take this means of thanking the many, many Baptists from your state who have in so many ways helped our missions and churches in the Northern Plains Baptist Convention—Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Your Southern Baptists have come at their own expense to help with building programs, revivals, VBSs, music programs and in various other ways. Their concern, prayers, witness and other work has encouraged our people and has extended the kingdom throughout this vast area in which we serve. We just could not have done without them.

If possible, I would write a personal letter of appreciation to each one who has assisted us. However, this seems to be the most feasible way of saying "Thank you" to so many.

Bold Mission Thrust and its Mission Service Corps is "on the way."

Roy W. Owen, Executive Director  
Northern Plains Baptist Convention

## N. C. courts watch Kentucky rulings

A Kentucky judge's ruling that private Christian schools can operate without state regulation has heartened a group fighting a similar battle in North Carolina.

In Kentucky Franklin Circuit Court Judge Henry Meigs ruled that state regulation of private Christian schools, except for adherence to minimum fire, health, safety and attendance requirements, violates the Kentucky and U. S. constitutional provisions guaranteeing freedom of religion.

William Ball of Harrisburg, Pa., attorney for 63 Christian schools which refuse to accept regulation by the North Carolina Board of Education, says the two cases are "absolutely parallel."

"I'm most encouraged," Ball said about the Kentucky decision. "It is the third state where a court of statewide jurisdiction has upheld the rights of Christian parents against undue regulation by the state." Courts in Ohio and Vermont have similarly ruled.

The Kentucky judge's decision will be appealed and James B. Graham, superintendent of public instruction, predicted the issue "could go all the way to the U. S. Supreme Court."

In North Carolina, Judge Donnie L. Smith ruled the state has a legitimate duty to require reports from church-related and other private schools to ensure that all students, wherever they go to school, receive a competent education. Ball's group is appealing.

The ruling judge in Kentucky said the state's imposition of textbook and teacher certification requirements on the private Christian schools denied free exercise of religion. He added the educational product of the Christian schools was equal or better without state regulation.



**"WE ARE INCREASING OUR GIFTS THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM AND ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS!"**

## 40% of SBC rooms are full

Over 40 percent of about 6500 rooms available in 34 hotels under contract for the 1979 Southern Baptist Convention in Houston are already full.

Nine of the 34 are completely full. Most reservations have been made by individuals, and no more block reservations are available in the hotels.

Four hotels near The Summit, where convention sessions will be held June 12-14, have plenty of room. They are the Astro Village Hotel, Downtown Holiday Inn, Shamrock Hilton and the headquarters hotel, Hyatt Regency.

The full hotels are Allen Park Inn, Albert Pick Motor Inn, Executive Red Carpet Inn, Holiday Inn—Central, La Quinta Inn—Greenway Plaza, Ramada Inn—Greenway Plaza, Stouffers—Greenway Plaza, Travelodge Tower and Holiday Inn—West Loop.

The Houston Housing Bureau will not take reservations by telephone.

Western Recorder carried computer forms necessary for room applications in its Sept. 13 issue. These will also appear in the November issue of The Baptist Program.

# Baptist News in Brief

## Baptist leaders protest new Vatican appointment

President Carter's decision to appoint former New York City mayor Robert Wagner as his new personal representative to the Vatican was criticized by James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and by SBC president Jimmy R. Allen.

Wood expressed "profound disappointment" in Carter. In September Wood asked the president not to name a replacement to David M. Walters, who left the Vatican post shortly after the death of Pope Paul VI.

Allen expressed his continuing belief that the practice of sending an envoy to the Vatican is "unconstitutional and unwise."

"Adequate communication on important issues," Allen declared, "has been and can be established without an official representative in the Vatican."

## Polish pope supported evangelicals

The Roman Catholic College of Cardinals has surprised the world again.

Much speculation at the conclave in Vatican City centered around the possibility of the election of a non-Italian to succeed Pope John Paul I. No one had any cardinal from the Iron Curtain countries on their lists of favorite candidates, but the cardinals elected Karol Wojtyla of Poland.

Suddenly, there's a whole new religious ballgame in Italy, Poland, other communist-controlled countries, even the world. One Italian communist leader said, "The umbilical cord of Italy to the Vatican has now been cut."

Maybe. But at least the Vatican will now have to adjust to its first non-Italian pope in over 450 years. Pope John Paul II brings something old and something new to the leadership of the Roman Catholic Church. **Something old:** a very conservative stance in his personal theology and his desire for discipline and loyalty to the church. **Something new:** lifelong experience of helping the church survive in a land grievously wrecked by war and dominated by an anti-religious regime.

Fresh from the close of a highly successful 10-day, history-making preaching tour of six cities in Poland evangelist Billy Graham issued a statement through his Minneapolis headquarters.

"Pope John Paul II has the greatest opportunity to make a contribution to the spiritual development within the Roman Catholic Church and to the evangelical resurgence throughout the world. He also has a tremendous opportunity to make a contribution to world peace.

"The third evangelistic sermon I ever preached in a Roman Catholic Church was in his church in Cracow," Graham

## 1979 calendar lists 25 statewide events

The 1979 Kentucky Baptist denominational calendar, just released in Middletown, includes 25 one time only statewide events for the coming year. The 1979 Baptist Diary listing all events has been mailed to pastors and denominational leaders throughout the state.

Numerous regional meetings are listed in all 12 months of the year in many cities across the state. Most are duplicates of similar events held simultaneously or on other dates in multiple localities.

The 25 one time only statewide events are listed chronologically. In some cases, the church hosting the event has not yet been determined.

Jan. 26-27—Worship Improvement Workshop for Pastors and Music Directors, Park Mammoth Resort, Cave City

Feb. 26-27—Evangelism Conference, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown (note new dates in 1979)

Mar. 2-3—Kentucky Library Retreat, Rough River Dam State Resort Park, Falls of Rough

Mar. 16-17—Youth Missions Retreat, Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Bagdad

Mar. 29-30—Communications-Writers' Workshop, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown

Mar. 30-31—Youth Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament, Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Bagdad

Apr. 5-7—WMU Annual Meeting, Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington

Apr. 6-8—Single Adults Retreat, Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Bagdad

Apr. 20-21—Drama Conference,

Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Bagdad  
Apr. 28—Children's Bible Drill, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville

May 7-8—Conference for Churches with Large Sunday Schools, Louisville (church to be named)

May 12—RA Track Meet, Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Bagdad

May 17-19—Ministers of Education Retreat, Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Bagdad

June 7-9—Church Secretaries Workshop, Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Bagdad

June 29-July 1—Family Enrichment Retreat, Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Bagdad

July 26-27—Music Ministers Retreat, Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Bagdad

Aug. 9-11—Early Childhood Education Workshop, Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Bagdad

Aug. 20-22—Pastor's Retreat, Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Bagdad

Oct. 1-2—Haworth Conference, Louisville (church to be named)

Oct. 4-6—Brotherhood Convention, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green

Oct. 12-14—BSU Convention, Northern Kentucky University

Nov. 12—Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association, Louisville (church to be named)

Nov. 12-13—Kentucky Baptist Music Association, Louisville (church to be named)

Nov. 12-13—Kentucky Baptist Pastor's Conference, Louisville (church to be named)

Nov. 13-15—Kentucky Baptist Convention, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville

## 400 attend BSU annual sessions

Four hundred Kentucky Baptist students registered at Owensboro's Third Baptist Church Oct. 13-15 for the annual state BSU convention. Theme of the weekend event was "Following Christ's Way."

John Martin, student at Eastern Kentucky State University and state BSU president, presided.

The agenda included special music by the Alice Lloyd College Choir; chalk artistry by Lowell Vann, chairman, Art Department, Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.; special features by Ragan Courtney, Nashville poet, composer and playwright; testimony by Chris Elkins, resource consultant, Department of Interfaith Witness, Home Mission Board, Atlanta; Bible study with Sabin Landry, professor of religious education, Southern Seminary, Louisville; and addresses by Jon F. Meek Jr., director of missions, Baptist Convention of New York, Syracuse.

Eleven simultaneous seminars were held. Leaders included: Elkins, Vann and Landry; Bill Lee, director of special missions ministries, Home Mission Board, Atlanta; James H. Cox, Jay Brown and Jesse Stricker, all of the Middletown staff; Jim Sparks, campus minister, Vanderbilt University, Nashville; David Drumel, pastor, Third Baptist Church, Owensboro; Mel Doughty, executive director, King's Players, Mayfield; and Jim Wilson and Mikel Robinson, campus ministers at Cumberland College and Kentucky State University, respectively.

# Mountains to the Mississippi

## Congregations

**Turner released from hospital**  
Billy J. Turner, pastor of First Baptist Church, Stearns, has been released from a hospital after treatment for injuries received in an accident while on the way to conduct a funeral service. Turner's activities will be limited for some time upon advice of his doctor.

**Georgians help Narrows Church**  
Youth from First Baptist Church, Conyers, Ga., recently did repair work on the Narrows Church building in Ohio County Association.

While there, the youth also conducted vacation Bible school. Jimmie Elder is pastor of Narrows Church and his father is pastor of FBC, Conyers.

**Churches send hymnals overseas**  
Three Ohio County Association churches joined efforts in sending used Baptist Hymnals to Southern Baptist missionary R. E. "Ed" Gordon in Dagupan City, Philippines.

West Point Baptist Church provided the hymnals; East Hartford Baptist Church's WMU ladies repaired them; and Concord Baptist Church paid the postage and mailed them.

Gordon wrote a letter acknowledging receipt of the books to Charles H. Ham, Ohio County director of missions. It read in part:

"Many thanks to you and your fine people in being so willing to share with us for God's glory here.

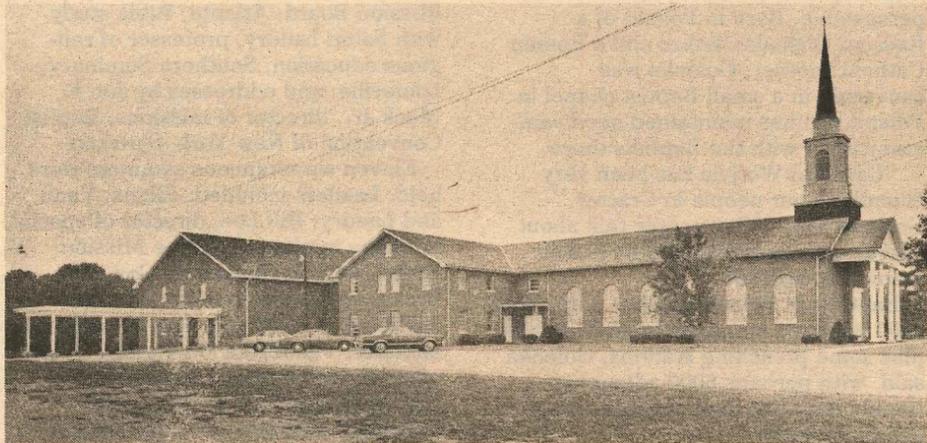
"Since our return in June 1977 we have had a tremendous increase in our Sunday school and worship attendance in the nine churches in our association.

"Before the attendance was between 400-500 and now it is over 1500. God is about to do something great among us as excitement is in the air."

**Corinth Church dedicates new building**  
Corinth Baptist Church, London, dedicated its new education building with special services Oct. 1. W. R. Rogers and Earl Clark, former pastors, were speakers.

The three-story structure at the rear of the original building contains 17,000 square feet and accommodates pre-school, youth and adults in Sunday school. It also contains a recreation-fellowship area and kitchen with a capacity of 500.

The long-range planning committee included Wilmer Boggs, Shelby Brooks, Charles Bullock, Jerry Fryer, Larry Hughes, Ed Smith and Roy Vanover. The building committee included Boggs, Brooks and Fryer.



Corinth Baptist Church, London, dedicated a new 17,000-square-foot education building, shown at the left at the rear of the existing facility. The structure includes classrooms, a recreation-fellowship area and a kitchen.

Total cost of the building was \$407,000. Ben A. Baird is the pastor.

**Boone's Creek honors Searcy family**  
Boone's Creek Baptist Church, Boone's Creek Association, honored the Doyle Searcy family Sept. 24 with a reception.

The Searcys entered Campbellsville College to prepare for appointment by the Foreign Mission Board.

**110th anniversary of Franklin Street**  
Franklin Street Baptist Church, Louisville, will celebrate its 110th anniversary Sunday, Oct. 29.

G. Allen West, executive director of Long Run Association, will speak at the morning worship service at 10:15 a.m.

All former members and pastors of the church are invited to the services and a noon dinner. An afternoon service begins at 2 p.m.

The anniversary celebration is in memory of Lewis C. Ray, pastor at Franklin Street when the sanctuary was built.

**Trammell Creek completes pastorium**  
Pastor Joe Eubank, his wife and two daughters moved into the new pastorium of Trammell Creek Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association, Aug. 5.

The church worked on the project 6½ years under the leadership of L. M. Hamilton.

The home is adjacent to the church.

**Aunt Martha Blankenship Day**  
Sinking Creek Church, Laurel River Association, held Aunt Martha Blankenship Day Sept. 3 to honor Mrs. Blankenship's 90th birthday.

The all day celebration featured dinner on the grounds and an afternoon of singing. One of her granddaughters sang a special song and Howard Jones read a poem he had written for the occasion, "A Tribute to Aunt Martha."

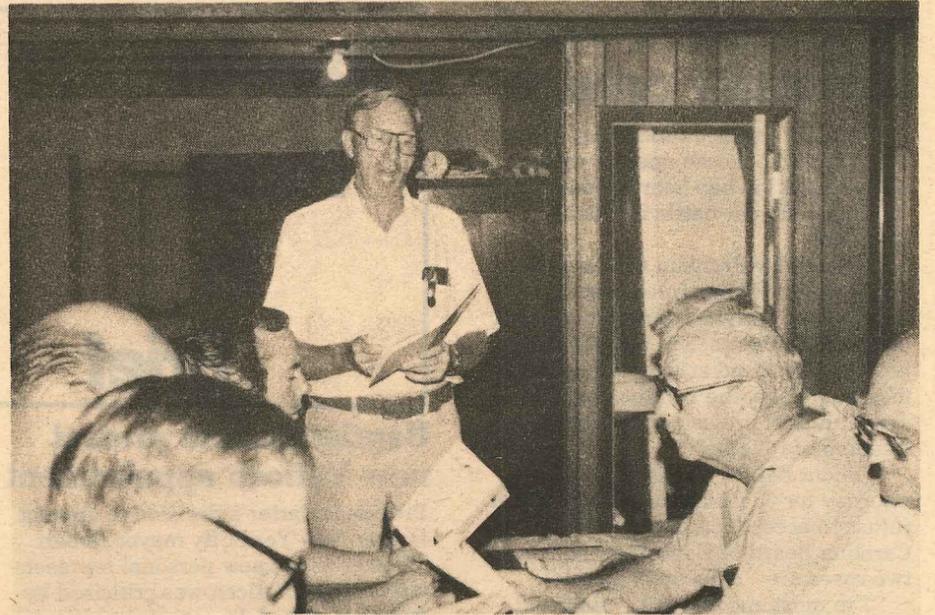
The church provided a birthday cake and a gift of red roses. Mrs. Blankenship's Sunday school class gave her a robe for this winter and many others gave gifts, too.

## Personnel

**Jim Shouse to Pollard Church**  
Ferman J. "Jim" Shouse Jr. was called as pastor of Pollard Baptist Church, Ashland.

Shouse is a native of Owensboro. He and his wife Jane have a 16-year-old son Terry.

Mr. and Mrs. Shouse are both graduates of Clear Creek Baptist School. He is a former associate pastor of Shively Heights Baptist Church, Louisville, and



Music director Glenn Durham leads in singing at the annual deacons' and trustees' retreat of First Baptist Church, Loyall, Sept. 15-16. The group met with pastor Keith Rogers at Camp Blanton, a regional Boy Scout camp. In addition to business matters, the men had fellowship periods and two meals prepared by themselves.

**First Baptist Church, Middlesboro.**  
Before assuming his duties at Pollard Oct. 1 he was pastor of First Baptist Church, Norton, Va.

**Wilson resigns at Walnut Street**  
C. E. "Chuck" Wilson resigned as minister of education at Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville.

Wilson has accepted the position of education at Parker Memorial Baptist Church, Anniston, Ala.

His last Sunday at Walnut Street, where he served four years, was Oct. 8.

Wilson and his wife Elizabeth have two daughters, Joni, 7, and Lori, 3.

**McMillen to FBC, Mason, Ohio**  
Ira McMiller Jr., former Kentucky Baptist pastor, has resigned as pastor of Northside Church, Lebanon, Ohio, to become associate pastor of ministries of First Baptist Church, Mason, Ohio.

In his new ministry McMillen will engage in personal evangelism, outreach and visitation, ministry to the aged and publicity. His wife, Jeanette, will be church hostess.

**Bill Thompson to Virginia**  
Bill Thompson, associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Stearns, for the past two-and-a-half years, has resigned to become associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Pennington Gap, Va.

He began his new ministries in September.

**Don Williams to Midway Church**  
Don Williams is the new pastor of Midway Baptist Church, Caldwell-Lyon Association.

He came from Lenox Baptist Church in Tennessee, where he had been pastor since 1975.

Williams and his wife Shirley are the parents of two children, Tammy, 17, and Lynn, 14.

## Revivals

**Kentuckians active in Korea crusade**  
Earl Abbott, Donald LaBelle and Willie D. Greer, all from Laurel River Association, and Dennis Rush, Manchester, went on a preaching mission to Jeon Lu, Korea.

They accompanied E. J. Daniels and

his team to the city of 400,000, located 200 miles south of Seoul.

For more than a week they preached in churches, factories, streets, mills, schools, homes, army bases and in the central crusade.

The team reported nearly 30,000 decisions including more than 26,000 conversions. More than 11,000 decisions were reported in one service at an army base.

The crusade and related meetings were preceded by four years of prayer.

**Successful meeting at Providence**  
Providence Baptist Church reported several decisions in a recent revival meeting.

Dale Brown is pastor.

**Six churches join in revival**  
Six churches in the Montgomery County area joined in a recent tent revival with evangelist Jesse Buell.

Held at the Macedonia recreation grounds, the revival resulted in several decisions.

Participating congregations were Reid Village Baptist Church, Mt. Sterling First Baptist Church, Howard's Mill Baptist Church, Jeffersonville Baptist Church, Kiddville Baptist Church and Macedonia Baptist Church.

**Brush Creek experiences revival**  
Brush Creek Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association, reported five conversions, six rededications and two additions to the church in revival services.

## Ordinations

**Frank Hatfield ordained to ministry**  
Frank Hatfield was ordained to the ministry Sept. 17 by New Salem Baptist Church, Valley Station.

Hatfield, a June graduate of Boyce School, will be pastor of a church in Columbus, Ind.

M. D. Morton preached the ordination sermon and Charles Flener gave the ordination prayer.

**Deacons ordained at FBC, Moreland**  
Joe Cooper, Donald Atwood and Floyd Lane were ordained deacons by First Baptist Church, Moreland, Sept. 17.

Ft. Worth teenagers Sue Sowders (l) and her friend, Tracy Tucknies, are typical teenage fans of "Powerline," the half-hour radio show produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and heard on nearly 1000 stations across the United States. In 1978 Baptist counselors received more than 14,000 problem letters from youngsters who heard the show. After counseling, some 2000 of these young people indicated they had made Christian decisions. "Powerline" is the world's largest radio program of its kind.

## Country Crossroads . . .

Ask a woman her age and she may avoid the question. But ask executive producer Jim Rupe the age of "Country Crossroads" and he'll gladly boast, "nine years and still growing."

"Country Crossroads," a weekly radio program put together by Rupe and associate producer Stan Knowles for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Ft. Worth, celebrates its ninth birthday this month.

Rupe, who's been with the commission since 1957, remembers the day the show's concept was created.

"It was in 1969 and we had decided to do a country music show on another commission program, 'MasterControl.' Listeners liked it so well we decided to develop an entire program devoted to country music with a spiritual message.

"In doing research for the new show we visited Nashville and talked with various entertainers to discover what country music fans liked. We learned that they are very personality oriented. They know all the records their favorite stars make and all about their families."

Rupe said this was a tremendous change of direction for the commission. "For the first time we used 'star' personalities in addition to announcers."

"Country Crossroads" was designed as a departure from the preaching format used by many broadcasters," said Paul M. Stevens, president of the Radio and Television Commission. "We use it to tell the story of Christ and how God can work in the lives of people."

In 1969 the program was heard on 30 stations across the U. S. Today, it's carried by over a thousand stations around the world including the American Forces Network and the Far East Network.

In its young life "Country Crossroads" has won numerous awards, including two Freedom's Foundation George Washington Honor Medals, a Distinguished Service Award and two special merit awards from the Country Music Association.

Rupe recently received the Religious Heritage of American Faith and Freedom Award in Broadcasting for his work with the program.

"Country Crossroads" is hosted by three top personalities in the country music field. Bill Mack and LeRoy Van Dyke has been with the show since the beginning. Jerry Clower joined in 1973.

As a result of the Country Crossroads broadcasts over 400,000 persons have responded to request free materials offered on the air.

In 1977, 334 persons wrote letters of personal needs or wanting more information on becoming Christians.

"One of the most exciting stories to come out of this ministry was that of Beulah Hurst," said Rupe. "Jerry Clower and I were riding to town from the Hot Springs airport one day and Beulah was our cab driver. She commented that Jerry sounded like a man she heard on 'Country Crossroads' and explained that because of the show she and 18 members of her family had become Christians.

"You can imagine how excited she was when we told her who we were.

"Beulah had never written to the show. If it hadn't been for that chance meeting we would never have known about the effect 'Country Crossroads' had on that family," said Rupe.

"Country Crossroads" has a format like no other in broadcasting. It consists of music and interviews with the people in country music who unashamedly testify how God works in their lives," said host Bill Mack.

"There's no script whenever it comes to the interviews. It's simply an outpouring of strength and faith."

Mack said it would be difficult to name a top country music artist who has not been on the show. "The words they speak are sincere. They are not paid for their interviews and, certainly, most of them don't need the publicity."

Rupe said the commission has found a winning format for country music fans and doesn't plan to make too many changes in the future. "As Paul Harvey once said, 'If the car's running and you want to keep it running, don't mess with the carburetor'."

## Commissioning the airwaves for Christ



## . . . MasterControl

Give a man fortune and fame and expect him to be on top of the world. But it brought a "crisis of abundance"—and loneliness and despair—to actor Dean Jones, until a life-changing experience one night in a hotel room.

Jones, star of the recently-released movie, "Born Again," discussed that experience and the life-changing effects the movie had on co-star Jay Robison during an interview with "MasterControl," a nationwide radio program produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

"In 1973, I was on tour with the play '1776,'" Jones said. "I should have been riding high. My career was in fantastic shape, I had achieved the recognition as an actor that I had always wanted . . . I had all the money I needed. But, I was very, very lonely."

Jones calls it a crisis of abundance. "I began to see that materialism and money would not satisfy. It scared me that it would never satisfy and I would go on forever like this."

One night after a performance Jones returned to his hotel room very depressed. "Somehow I knew," he recalls, "what I wanted . . . what I needed." He knelt and "accepted Jesus Christ as Savior"—an experience he credits with renewing his zest for life and salvaging his marriage.

Unlike many prominent Christians who have received criticism about their faith Jones feels his complete transformation impresses people. "More and more people are looking for something to believe in and when they see my change from depression to supreme happiness they begin to think there's something to it."

Jones hasn't had any problems adapting his Christian lifestyle to the Hollywood environment. "I've been through all the trials of the industry (Hollywood)—the alcohol, the young actresses. I know the spiritual bankruptcy it causes. It's a dead end."

Looking a full decade younger than his 48 years, Jones has a warmth that leaves one feeling they've known him for years.

That warmth comes through when he discusses "Born Again," based on the conversion of former Nixon hatchetman Charles Colson. With the role Jones enters a new dramatic phase of his career. He hopes it will lead to serious parts, but his feeling about it also has a deeply personal dimension.

"I can really relate to Charles Colson. Before his conversion he was in an anti-God state of mind—just as I was in my career. He was sold out to power. I was sold out to ego and success.

"The film is not directly evangelical," he said. "It has a soft sell approach to Christianity which should not turn anyone off. It's entertaining, informative, transforming. Through it we outline God's willingness to penetrate politics and bring man into a relationship

with him.

"I think many people will turn to Christ because of it," said Jones, a member of the Church On The Way, Van Nuys, Calif. "If it's a success at the box office it will send a message to filmmakers that people want this kind of movie instead of the trash they've been getting."

Even if "Born Again" fails to break any box office records Jones believes it will still be a success for the effect it has had on the life of his co-star, Jay Robison, known for his role as Emperor Caligula in "The Robe." He plays David Shapiro, Colson's lawyer and friend, in "Born Again."

After "The Robe" in 1953, Robison was in demand as an actor and signed a contract with 20th Century Fox. But his success was short-lived. More offers stopped coming and he was released from the contract. Bored and despairing, he tried to find consolation in drugs and was subsequently arrested on a narcotics charge.

It took several years for his trial to come to court, but, in 1968, he was convicted and served 17 months in a California prison. After his release he began to reestablish his career which had been destroyed by headlines and rumors.

Robison, also interviewed on "MasterControl," related the effects Dean Jones and the film have had on his life.

"When I first met Dean I was immediately impressed. His greeting was so warm and friendly. He and the other Christians on the set had a tremendous impact on me."

During the production of "Born Again" Jones shared his faith with Robison. "I felt such loving concern that day. He asked me if I would like to become a Christian. I was really taken back and said, 'Oh, not now. I'm not ready yet. That's something I need to do alone.' He didn't try to push me. It was like he was just taking my hand and leading me along."

But the seed was planted and on Jan. 16, 1978 Jay Robison invited Jesus into his life. "It's so great being a Christian," said Robison. "It's amazing, but everywhere I go there are brothers and sisters in Christ who accept me. It's like a great big family that's always been waiting for me. I feel I've come home."

On the last day of filming the final scene had to be shot in the parking lot of Chino Penitentiary, the prison where Robison had served his sentence 10 years ago.

"I really didn't want to go," he recalls. "But Dean told me, 'The Lord is with you now. You're returning in victory, you're returning in triumph.' When we arrived at the prison there was a big sign hanging on the parking lot wall that read—'Welcome Back Jay Robison . . . Star!'"

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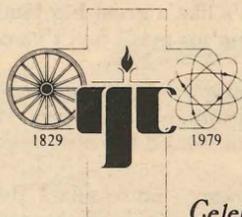
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Now a tradition at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the Georgetown College Breakfast is a time of food and fellowship for alumni and other friends of the College. These are invited to be guests of the College on this special occasion. Make your reservation now to be one of the Kentucky Baptists attending the breakfast to meet our new president, Dr. Ben M. Elrod, and to fellowship with your other friends from Georgetown College. Reservations are limited and must be made by November 10.



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## Seminary student's wife aids in recent Louisville 'sting'

by Rex Hammock

Sherry Pegram, 24, the wife of a seminary student, played an important part in a recent undercover police "fencing" operation which resulted in the recovery of more than \$2.5 million in stolen merchandise and the indictment of 119 suspected criminals.

Mrs. Pegram, whose husband Wilson is a religious education student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, joined in the undercover work shortly after going to work as a civilian in the Jefferson County (Louisville) police department a year ago.

Posing as the girlfriend of an undercover buyer of stolen goods or "fence," she made purchases of stolen items and narcotics which resulted in the indictment of 20 of the suspects.

In July, while the undercover agent was on vacation, Mrs. Pegram alone purchased more than 50 vehicles including a truck carrier of seven 1978 Cadillacs valued at more than \$150,000. She was about to buy the cars for a total of \$6000.

Mrs. Pegram, who had worked in a police office in her native Jackson, Tenn., said she was concerned about what some of her seminary neighbors might have thought during her undercover work.

"I didn't know what they might wonder about me leaving with different men (undercover police officers) at all times of the night," she explained.

"I guess it also looked kind of funny for me to drive up to Judson Hall in a 1978 Cadillac," she laughed, referring to an apartment building on campus.

When asked how her husband felt during her undercover work, she said he was very supportive, but admitted "He worried about me a great deal till my boss let him go out to the apartment to see how it was.

"When he saw that I was always under surveillance by armed police, he didn't worry as much.

When her husband graduates from seminary, Mrs. Pegram said she might like to become a police officer. But, "right now," she added, "I'm committed to Wilson's ministry and don't want to make such a permanent decision."

### Seminary Extension enrolments double

More than 10,000 persons studied Southern Baptist Seminary Extension curriculum during 1977-78, a jump of almost 20 percent over the previous year and a 100 percent increase since 1972-73.

Operated as an arm of the six Southern Baptist theological seminaries, Seminary Extension provides pastors and lay church leaders with opportunities to continue their education for ministry. Students may choose from more than 40 college-level courses, 15 simplified courses, and a variety of informal personal study programs.

Raymond M. Rigdon, department director, noted the growth in Seminary Extension enrolment corresponds with an upward trend in all of Southern Baptists' theological institutions.

### Campbellsville College professor authors manuscript

Thomas E. Bowman, of the National Museum of Natural History at Smithsonian Institution, has announced that a manuscript authored by a Campbellsville College professor has been accepted for publication in the Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington.

The manuscript entitled "Anatomical notes on *Lutodrilus multivesiculatus* (Annalida; Oligochaeta)" was written by Michael L. McMahan, assistant professor of biology at Campbellsville.

## Sunday School Lessons H. C. Chiles

Lessons for Nov. 5, 1978

### International Series

### Honest speech

#### Matthew 5:11-12

Christ made it clear that all who follow him closely may expect to be hated, ridiculed, falsely accused and persecuted. Persecution for righteousness' sake can make for spiritual growth by bringing the persecuted closer to the Lord. It is to be noted that the blessing which Christ promises comes to those who are mistreated without a cause in themselves and for the sake of the Lord.

#### James 3:6-14

James tells us that all manner of wild animals may be tamed by man, but that the human tongue can be tamed only by the Lord. Like a serpent highly charged with venom, the tongue is "an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." Therefore, apply three tests to what you say: Is it true? Is it necessary to say it? Is it kind to say it?

With the tongue a Christian can plead for God, challenge others to do right, inspire to noble and heroic living, encourage the despairing and comfort the sorrowing.

#### Exodus 20:16

Bearing false witness is an abomination in the sight of God. Perjury is bearing false witness under oath. Many have been robbed of their reputation, property, freedom and lives by witnesses giving false testimony in the courts.

Perhaps the most prevalent form of false witnessing is slander. All those who circulate false reports concerning others with unusual delight should remember that words can never be recalled or obliterated.

Another method of bearing false witness is that of insinuation. One need not make a positive statement about another in order to bear false witness. Another's reputation may be injured without a word being spoken. Either the shrug of a shoulder, the lifting of an eyebrow, or absolute silence when his name is mentioned, or a lie is spoken about him, is enough to do irreparable damage to his reputation.

False witnessing injures its victims, its hearer and the false witness.

### Life and Work Series

### Money is power

#### Luke 16:1-10, 13

A steward is a person who has been entrusted with the management of the affairs of another.

Of the steward mentioned in our lesson gossipers reported that he had misappropriated or embezzled a portion of what had been entrusted to him. As soon as the steward learned that his mis-handling of his employer's affairs was common knowledge, he knew he would be relieved of his position and responsibilities forthwith, because an audit would simply verify the charge against him.

The wicked steward asked himself the question that many ask when their wrongdoing is exposed, "What shall I do?" He frantically began to think about how to get another job. After having enjoyed the advantage of an exalted position, he was too proud to become a beggar. Being a clever schemer,

he quickly decided that he would bribe his lord's debtors by discounting their bills. He thought that as a result of his befriending them generously they would reciprocate by taking care of him as long as he remained unemployed.

To our surprise his owner commended the steward for his shrewdness in using his current opportunity to provide for his future. How much more should Christians use the possessions with which the Lord has entrusted them in such a way that the gospel of Christ will be proclaimed effectively.

Faithfulness in the stewardship of all our possessions—self, time, talents, money and influence—elicits the admiration and appreciation of all right-thinking people. "Be faithful" might well be the slogan for every follower of Christ in these momentous and eventful days.

## Frank Owen

October 19, 1978

Numerous committees, boards and work groups have to do with the operation of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The KBC is a democracy of 700,000 people from 2200 churches and 80 associations. Its process uses representatives from every locality in our state.

We sit day after day with statewide committees consisting of pastors, laymen and women, carrying out the assignments of the general body. It is in such processes that we seek to distill from the convention constituency the wisdom and will of the people.

Today, the nominating committee meets. It consists of 24 members from every section of the state. Its constituents are named by the committee on committees under spelled-out guidelines.

The nominating committee will name the convention sermon preacher and his alternate. It also will nominate for the convention's consideration one person from each of the 80 associations having a vacancy occurring this year on our executive board. Every one of the associations has at least one three-year term member.

The committee also will nominate persons to fill each vacancy occurring this year on any of the several boards that operate our agencies and institutions.

The above samplings of the committee's work typify the process of many committees and work groups whose decisions are then brought to the convention for general approval. Thus, the larger democracy assigns its trusted leaders to deliberate and report back with their recommendations.

It takes democracy longer to act and I suppose its actions are, at times, quite less efficient than a one-party dictatorship, whether of person or bureaucracy. But it determines to distill from the greater body (thru its chosen leaders) the wisdom and will of the people. Involvement is the name of the game.

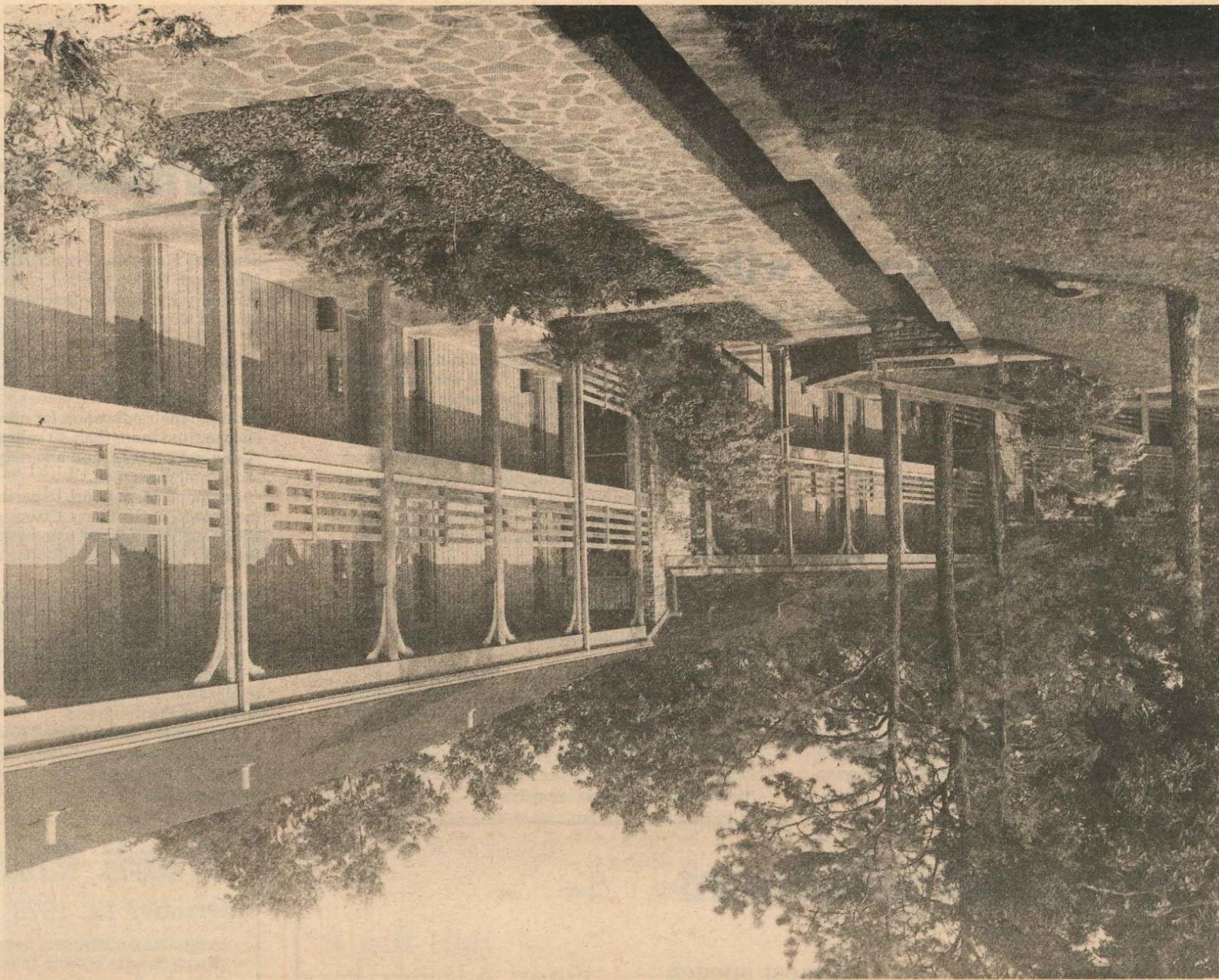
Chairman Buron Richerson is in the conference room boning up on procedures before the 24 committee members arrive. They will work all day, putting together their best understanding of the will of God and the will of the people. Let us pray that these two wills may be one.



# WESTERN RECORDER

KENTUCKY BAPTIST NEWS JOURNAL

OCTOBER 25, 1978



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